within 5 mm to 6.5 mm range and said maximal height of said shield along the entire said screen area is less than 1.5 mm, preferably 0.4 to 1.2 mm.

123. Device according to claim 120, wherein said cutting edge has another end disposed proximally of said distal end.

124. Device according to claim 123, wherein said shield is delineating shield in which tissue operated edge is made approximately congruent to said cutting edge and exposes said cutting edge approximately concurrently along the entire length.

125. Device according to claim 123, wherein said shield is inverted shield which gradually exposes said cutting edge from said proximal end to said distal end during the displacement of said shield from said extended to said retracted position.

126. Device according to claim 125, wherein said cutting edge is situated at an acute angle to said longitudinal central axis, and tissue operated of said shield is made stepwise.

127. Device according to claim 120, wherein said shield is made plate-shaped.

128. Device according to claim 120, wherein said shield and said bias means are made as an integral detail of the same material.

129. Device according to claim 120, wherein there is at least two said penetrating zones and said protector means adapted to independent protection of each of said penetrating zones.

130. Device according to claim 129, wherein said protector means are made as said separate shields with separate said bias means.

131. Device according to claim 129, wherein said shield is a floating common shield for at least two penetrating zones of said cutting edge so that each of said penetrating zones is protected by its regions of said common shield and each of said common shield regions is biased by its own said bias means thereby converting said regions of common shield into said independent protector members.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits this Preliminary Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.115 which should assist in the efficient and expedited examination and prosecution of the application.

The specification has been revised so as to emphasize the preferred embodiments of the invention, other embodiments being deleted from the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, applicant provides herewith, on separate attached pages, a clean form of the newly revised specification, including the Background of the Prior Art, Summary of the Invention, Brief Description of the Drawings, and Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments sections. Also provided, on separate attached pages, is a marked-up version of these original sections. It is noted that brackets are used to denote deleted matter and underlining is used for additions, in the marked-up version. It is also noted that pages 5-16 and page 17, lines 1-23 in the original specifications have been deleted in their entirety, but that, for the sake of economy, the pages are not included in the marked-up version. Finally, it is noted that aside from the deletion of some descriptive language in the original Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments section, the primary change to this section is the substitution of the revised figure numbers, so as to be consistent with the amended Brief Description of the Drawings section. For the sake of convenience, the amended figure numbers have simply been inserted in place of the numbers which originally designated these figures.

The newly submitted figures are identical to those in the original application, except original FIGS. 15-18, 36-40, 73-76, and 86-94 have been cancelled and the remaining figures renumbered. Accordingly, original FIGS. 1-14 maintain the same numbers, original FIGS. 19-35 are now FIGS. 15-31, original FIGS. 41-72 are now FIGS. 32-63, and original FIGS. 77-85 are now FIGS. 64-72.

Applicant avers that no new matter has been included in the disclosure as revised by the herein Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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